



-2-

REMARKS

In the office action, the Examiner identified sixteen species of invention (species A-P) illustrated in various figures of the application, and has imposed a restriction requirement.

The Applicants hereby elect Species F, pertaining to the embodiment shown in Figure 2A.

Apparatus claims 1, 2, 5/2, 6/2, 7, 9, 11-15 and method claims 31, 33-35 and 39-41 all read on the elected species.

It is further respectfully asserted that claim 1 is generic to species A-F, I, K and L, and that independent method claim 31 is generic to all the identified species of invention A-P, and that method claim 39 is generic to species A-E, I and K-P.


Claim 1 is generic to the species A-F, I, K and L because all of the figures encompassed by those species show the elements recited in claim 1, i.e., a self-blunting needle cannula device having a needle cannula mounted on a hub, a blunting member movably disposed within the needle cannula and a guide surface that axially leads towards the through-bore in the needle cannula to facilitate insertion of the blunting member into the needle cannula.

Independent method claim 31 is generic to all of the identified species of invention A-P because they all show structures used in, or assembled by, the method defined in that claim. Dependent claim 32 is generic with respect to species K-N, and dependent claim 33 is generic to species A-J, L, O and P.

Independent method claim 39 is generic to species A-F, I and K-P because all of these species are structures which can be used in or assembled by the claimed method.

Claim 9 is the only pending claim whose scope is limited to the elected species.

Respectfully submitted,


Frederick A. Spaeth
Registration No. 33,793
Attorney for Applicant

Libert & Associates
3 Mill Pond Lane
P.O. Box 538
Simsbury, CT 06070-0538

Telephone: (860) 651-9321
Facsimile: (860) 651-5735

RECEIVED
JUL 11 2000
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

B